



MINUTES
Waiver Structure Work Group Meeting
Tuesday, February 8, 2022 from 10:00AM - 12:00PM
Held via: Zoom Webinar

Attendance: Jess Gorton BDS Facilitator, Sandy Hunt BDS Facilitator, Deborah DeScenza ED Farmsteads; Jennifer Pineo ED Becket; Krista Gilbert Family Advocate; Lenore Sciuto VP Community Services, One Sky Services; Michelle Donovan State Director, Living Innovations; Pamela Dushan Director of Case Management, Community Partners; Rebecca Bryant ED Lakes Region Community Services; Renee Fisher VP of Community Based Services, Easter Seals; Sarah Menard Case Manager, Crotched Mountain; Tim Leach Gateways; Drew Smith A&M; Alecia Ortiz A&M

Note: Members of the public who joined as attendees in listen-only mode are not included in this list.

Please reference the corresponding slide presentation for the detailed agenda, including topics and themes covered in the meeting and corresponding takeaways and applicable action items.

Major Topics and Themes	Key Discussion Areas
<p>DSP Subcommittee Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BDS Shared that the Department...: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Had a number of volunteers from Advisory Committee, Waiver Work Group and Rate Work Groups. ○ Expects work group to begin meeting in a week or two <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recommendations from the subcommittee will be factored into the work of the waiver and rates work groups ○ Can provide additional support if needed with regard for the group so reach out by email if additional support would be needed or helpful.
<p>Adding a new waiver</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BDS acknowledged feedback that indicates that some individuals would like additional information about the intent of adding a new waiver. • BDS and A&M gave an overview of why the recommendation was made in the A&M report, challenges with a single DD comp waiver, and what the opportunities will be of introducing a supports waiver. • BDS and A&M reviewed the goals of the supports waiver. The intent is to build out additional service options, not to use it as a fiscal constraint that has been seen in some states. • A member noted they felt if someone had what they needed under a one waiver system, they wouldn't necessarily be relying on an aging caregiver and then need to transition to a residential waiver. • A member noted concern that the differentiator between the proposed waivers seems to be about living arrangements and requested clarification about why two waivers are helpful.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BDS and A&M clarified that creating an additional waiver for support services is meant to help diversify service options that best fit an individual's needs over time and align state practices with CMS standards. ○ The Department also clarified that two versions of the same service could exist for different situations. The difference between the services would be the reimbursement rate which would allow for appropriate reimbursement depending on if that version of the service has a home-based delivery model or a provider-based delivery model. • A member asked if the ABD waiver is being changed at this time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BDS responded that the ABD waiver is not being changed at this time. • A member noted housing supply issues. People are looking to leave home and are trying to get into an independent living model, but there is a shortage of housing. It is unclear how this will factor into the discussions, but it is an important challenge to keep in mind. • A member noted to also keep in mind that the new IT system must be nimble enough to work with increasing numbers and still streamline processes. (Also try to address the duplication issues) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BDS and A&M responded that agility and training will all be pieces of this process and there are active steps in process to address this. • A member asked about the example states and if there is additional data from those states to help people understand better why they created two or more waivers? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If specific additional information is asked for by the group, the Department and A&M certainly could produce. • A member noted vendors have different responsibilities than the Area Agencies do when individuals need changes to their services. Currently it is tedious to switch to different services. Whatever we can do to ease the process is important to keep in mind, hope all the BDS Systems Work committees can keep in mind and work to make this process easier for both vendor and Area Agencies.
Review of January Assignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group discussion of assignment work
February Assignment and Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Please refer to the corresponding work group PPT for details on assignments (if any) and next steps.</i>